



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
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ALEXANDRIA:
THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1858.

Death of Gen. Chas. F. Mercer.
As was announced in the Daily Gazette yesterday, Gen. Chas. F. Mercer, of Virginia, died, after a protracted illness, on the 4th inst., at Howard, near this city, in the 80th year of his age. This estimable man, at one time, and for a long series of years, occupied a prominent place in the councils of his native State, and of the United States. He was for several years a prominent member of the Legislature of Virginia, and afterwards, for a long period, represented the Loudoun district in Congress. In both positions, he left upon the statute books the records of his zeal, statesmanship, and philanthropy. His public course was always directed by considerations connected with the well doing of his fellow men, and the interests of his country. He was an ardent advocate of Internal Improvements, and particularly of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which work was mainly carried through by his constant exertions in its behalf. A friend of peace, a true patriot, a lover of his country, he achieved an honorable fame, and a place among the benefactors of his race. Since his retirement from public life, he has passed his days in travel and study, and returned to spend his last hours in the district he once represented, and among those whom he had once served faithfully and constantly. The citizens of this place will always respect his memory, for he was their friend in all instances, and on all occasions.

The funeral of General Mercer will take place at Howard, this morning, at 10 o'clock.

Among the many able speeches delivered at the last session of the Legislature of Virginia, on the subject of the Internal Improvements of the State, was one by Daniel C. DeJarnette, of Caroline, when the Strasburg Connection scheme was under consideration. The subject having been disposed of, and the interest in it, of course, passed away, it is not necessary to revive the matter by repeating the arguments successfully urged against the proposed measure. Besides, the length of Mr. D.'s speech, precludes the possibility, just at this time, of inserting it in our columns. But we may say, that few can rise from a perusal of this speech, without being favorably impressed with the ability of the author, and doing justice to his enlarged and liberal views. He regarded and treated the subject as a statesman, and a friend to the general interests of the State. His country has in him a worthy representative.

We noticed, a few days ago, the Southern Literary Messenger for May. It is proper that we should add, that for the variety and excellence of its articles, it has not been surpassed by any previous issue of that magazine. In particular, the review of Pardon's life of Aaron Burr deserves to be mentioned. It is one of the most interesting, most discriminating, and best written sketches of the character and career of Burr that we ever read. The author has a facile pen, and uses it with marked ability.

The Washington correspondent, in his last letter to the Baltimore Sun, remarks as follows respecting the revenue prospects of the Government:—"It may be remarked that there is more money in the country at this time than at any former day, and trade is about to revive in all its branches, when the revenue is likely to come in in floods."

The twelfth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was brought to a conclusion on Tuesday evening, when that body adjourned to meet at Springfield, Mass., on the 4th Wednesday of August, 1859. This session has been very fully attended by the members of the Association.

The Methodist Protestant General Conference, composed of ministerial and lay delegates from thirty odd Annual Conferences, convened on Tuesday at Lynchburg, Va. The ratio of representation is one minister and one layman for every seventeen hundred and fifty members, giving to the body some ninety-six delegates.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad appears to be doing an extensive business, immense freight trains passing constantly, and the passenger trains being crowded. The road from Baltimore to Cumberland is in admirable order, the trains running like clock-work, fully up to time.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has declared a half yearly dividend on the stock of the Washington Branch, of four and a half per cent.

The members of the Medical Association now in session in Washington, have been most hospitably entertained, by several of the physicians of Georgetown.

The resolution in relation to our difficulties, with Paraguay, has been laid on the table, in the Senate.

The subject of the repeal of the bounties granted to the Cod fishery, is under discussion in the Senate.

The bill for the admission of Minnesota into the Union, is now under discussion in the House of Representatives.

The May number of the Southern Planter has been received. It contains a rich variety of interesting matter for farmers.

Gov. Hicks, of Md., has declined to call an extra session of the Maryland Legislature.

It is proposed, in Buffalo, New York, to execute the paving of the streets, by steam power.

The State Department is in possession of all the facts attending the assault on the American missionary, Walter Dickson, the violence committed on his wife and daughter, and the murder of his son-in-law, Steinbeck, in Jaffa. J. W. Gorham, U. S. consul at Jerusalem, aided by consul-General De Lesau, after much labor, succeeded in having the five criminals arrested, four of whom confessed their guilt on the trial, and at last accounts, the firm, from Constantinople, for their execution, was all that was needed to consummate the tragedy they had commenced, by the forfeit of their own lives as an execution. The testimony of Mrs. and Miss Dickson, reveals shocking details in regard to the outrage committed upon them. The State Department has sent letters to Mr. Gorham and Mr. De Lesau, complimenting and applauding their conduct in the affair.

The Union, in the course of some remarks, on the present position of affairs in our country, says:—"We leave it to the country to say whether, as the North and the South become more and more prominent, the Union does not appear less and less important and necessary? The matter, perhaps, may be better solved by asking whether friendship, amity, and kindly feeling do not enter more into the character of the American Union than jealousy, distrust, contention, and strife? And then, again, we submit to men of sense, and we are to witness the overthrow of our institutions, whether that end should be effected through the agitation of a subject which appertains exclusively to local communities, and with which the nation has neither part nor lot?"

Intelligence has been received from the United States ship Dale, of the African Squadron, to the 11th of February. She was then at St. Paul de Loando, about starting for Monrovia. The Dale had called at the port of Benguela, and found an American seaman, Jeremiah Sullivan, from the whaler Osceola Third, of New Bedford, who had been imprisoned ten months by the Portuguese authorities for merely being in company with a sailor who had committed an assault. The commander of the Dale made a fierce demand upon the Government, and threatened to bombard the fort and town if the American was not granted a trial. His release was then effected, and the Dale took the two men on board and brought them off.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, succeeded in calling up the bill amendatory of the acts in relation to the Printing of Congress, and introducing very important modifications in this department of service. The bill, after having been read, was explained by Mr. J., who expressed the hope that its provisions would result in an annual saving of a million of dollars to the Government. A few amendments were suggested and adopted, after which the bill was passed by the Senate.

A fire broke out in a house belonging to Mr. Henry Phillips, in the occupancy of Eliza Payne, on Main Street, near the Railroad, in Fredericksburg, on Tuesday. The building was of wood and seriously threatened the neighboring tenements, which were also wood. The wind blew the flames across the street, in a most fortunate direction, and the only property lost was that in which the fire originated.

It has been ascertained that Cutting and Tuttle, both firemen, were the only two persons killed outright at the Federal street fire, in Boston, on Sunday morning. Mr. Reardon and Moran are at the hospital, and may possibly recover. The loss incurred by the fire will, it is thought, reach \$250,000, the greater part of which is insured in Boston.

Gloomy reports come from parts of the South of damages occasioned to the crops by the cold weather of last week. Frost was very general throughout the country, and in many places lay upon the ground like snow. In some places ice of considerable thickness was formed.

The residence of Dr. N. Marmion, at Harper's Ferry, was destroyed by fire on Saturday morning last. Much of the furniture of the residence was also destroyed, or so injured in hurriedly removing it, as to render it of little value.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Boston, are discussing the question whether it is consistent with the Christian character to play the game of chess.

Late Foreign News.
In France, the Bernard excitement is subsiding. The director of the Constitution was dismissed for an exciting article against England, but he was subsequently restored. The Monitor denies that France is increasing her naval armament.

The European complications are increasing. The Serbian Complicity has resigned. Austria is concentrating her forces on the Sardinian frontier, and Placentia is treated as in a state of siege.

The difficulty between France and Portugal, relative to the seizure of a French vessel containing emigrants, has been settled. A change of Ministry in Portugal is expected.

The Earl of Derby has stated in the British House of Lords that no exclusive privileges would be conferred on any company relative to the Atlantic telegraph. The operations in shipping the cable were actively progressing, and the experiments were satisfactory.

The great steamer Leviathan will not be completed until autumn, when she will make several trips to America, and next spring return to the China and Australia trade.

In China an Imperial edict had been issued condemning and degrading Yeh, and appointing a successor to settle the dispute with the European Powers.

Calcutta dates of March 22d are received. The British arms continued to gain successes over the rebels. Sir Colin Campbell had returned to Lucknow. Nana Sahib's retreat was stormed, but he again escaped.

Alex. Loudoun and Hampshire R. R.
The forces on the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad are busy in the prosecution of the work on this improvement, and we are glad to learn that they expect to increase the force considerably at an early day. They are now erecting a massive and substantial stone bridge over the road where the turnpike crosses it at Clarke's Gap. The structure will be of heavy and beautiful material, and put up in a manner equal with the other masonry on the work which has elicited such general admiration for its substantial and finished appearance. A few months' work will clear up all the gradation and masonry between Clarke's Gap and Alexandria, ready for the rails—which are expected to be laid by next spring to the point—when the opening of the company will be applied to the Virginia of Virginia.

The recent appropriations have placed this road upon a sure basis, and it is destined to be one of the main improvements of the State.—*Leesburg-Washingtonian.*

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times."
The motion made by Mr. Colfax in the House of Representatives, to lay on the table the report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, recommending the immediate abrogation of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty was not regarded as a test question, as both its friends and opponents want an opportunity for discussion.

In nineteen days after signing the government contract for all the horses that the government wants during the year 1858, Messrs. L. P. Sanger, John Frink, Thos. Dyer, and J. W. Singleton—all Illinoisians—bought and paid for seventeen hundred horses, without one cent of government funds, and had them all collected and delivered at Fort Leavenworth.

Should there be no "let up" in the financial world this summer, it is estimated that above five hundred thousand dollars will be expended in Vincennes, Ind., between the first of May and the first of December, for buildings and improvements. A half million of dollars to be scattered among the brick makers, lumbermen, carpenters and mechanics.

Colonel Arago, brother of the late-famed astronomer, who has been thirty years in the Mexican service, has been conveyed to Vera Cruz a prisoner, and thrown into San Juan de Ullua. His offense has been that he was detected in treaty with Echegaray, in the interests of Zalazaga, to deliver over the castle of Parote, of which he (Arago) has been the governor for many years.

Isaac Holcombe, of Fayette county, Georgia, has been arrested by the officers of the Pension Bureau, and in default of bail committed to jail to await his trial for the commission of frauds in obtaining revolutionary pensions. The Pension Office has received official information of the conviction of James R. Buchanan, of Arkansas, who was arrested some months since by its order, for forgery and other frauds in obtaining bounty-land warrants.

Saturday last the first of May, "moving" day in New York, as usual, and it is believed there were more changes of residence in that city and Brooklyn than have occurred for many years. A large proportion of houses are now standing empty, and rents have fallen on the East river side of the city, about 25 per cent. In Brooklyn alone there are some two hundred houses without tenants.

Messrs. Dupont & Co., of Louisville, after boring to the depth of 1,700 feet—the last 1,600 through solid rock—have succeeded in finding water of a temperature about ten degrees warmer than the atmosphere, and strongly impregnated with salt or alum. It is to be analyzed.

Captain Ives, of Lauderdale county, Miss., has recently fallen by the death of an English relative. He was an old sailor, and it is added, as a piece of serviceable information to marrying young men, that he has only two children, both charming daughters.

The latest Texas papers speak of the devastations committed by grasshoppers. In many places entire corn fields have been laid waste, there not being left a blade or stalk of anything green. The corn, which had grown five or six inches high, has been utterly destroyed.

The San Jose Tribune estimates the population of California at 597,000. The estimate is based upon the returns of the local assessors. Of this population, 332,250 are Americans, 38,500 Chinese, 15,000 French, 15,000 Mexicans, 10,000 Irish, 2,000 English, and about 4,000 colored persons.

A Jozan Kentuckian arrived in Cincinnati on Friday last, equipped with rifles and other fighting materials ready, and immediately took passage for St. Louis, from whence they intend proceeding to the Utah country, with the expectation of being in at the commencement of hostilities.

Tuckerman, the mail robber, has been sentenced to be imprisoned, and kept at hard labor in the State Prison for the space of 21 years. During the address of the Judge the prisoner shook convulsively, and appeared to feel his sentence as much as if he had been condemned to death.

Hon. Humphrey Marshall intends to introduce a resolution for the organization of a camel battery, on the principle of the camel batteries employed in the East. If authorized, an effort will be made to have the men armed with the formidable new gun invented by Mr. G. Lee, of Cincinnati.

It is a curious circumstance, says a writer in Blackwood, that every Englishman thinks that he can do two things, and is never convinced of his error until he tries. One is that he can write for a newspaper and the other is that he can swim.

The Democracy of New York fired a salute of one hundred and twelve guns in Park, as an expression of their exultation over the passage of the Kansas bill in Congress—one gun for each vote cast for the bill in the House.

The last society spoken of in California is the "Pay Nobthings." It is said to be alarmingly prosperous. The password is "lend me a dollar," the response, "broke." It is but a branch, however. The original society has long flourished in the Atlantic States.

At Plymouth church, Brooklyn, on Sunday, there were one hundred and eighty-eight new members received. This is Henry Ward Beecher's church, and in noticing its progress he said that a revival of religion was not abnormal, but based on natural laws.

The project of a bridge across the East River from New York to Brooklyn is agitated. A petition is about to be presented to Congress asking for the necessary power to construct a low bridge on piers, with an appropriation.

Already the bill for the admission of Kansas is undergoing different constructions North and South. We are afraid the "settlement" is not yet effected.

It is stated that the free negroes of Texas, are availing themselves of a recent law of that State, enabling them to choose masters and become slaves.

The Ravens, during their recent engagement of nine weeks at the Boston Theatre, drew into its treasury nearly \$42,000.

New Filibustering Expedition.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.
ASPINWALL, April 13.—Col. Kinney has just sailed from this port, Greytown, with a large supply of stores, ammunition, and several tons of provisions, to the miserable place, in order to revolutionize the miserable, self-concocted English government at that place. He has means and friends sufficient to support his pretensions, and he will soon be re-established in his former position—Governor of Greytown, or San Juan del Norte.

The Treaty with Nicaragua.
The ratification of the Yrissari Treaty with Nicaragua is likely to put a new face on the relations between us and the Nicaraguans, and to lead to the re-establishment of that Transit route, the breaking up of which was one of the many miserable results of Walker's filibustering operations. This treaty embraces two distinct objects—first, the general commercial relations between us and Nicaragua, and secondly, certain special provisions on the subject of the Transit. So far as relates to the first object, the treaty places us in the position of the most favored nations.

The general provisions are similar to those contained in many other treaties. We come now to the special provisions in relation to the Transit. The articles of the United States to the Pacific through the territories of Nicaragua by any route of communication, natural or artificial, land or water, now existing, or which may hereafter exist, to be used and enjoyed on equal terms with the citizens of Nicaragua, reserving, however, to the Nicaraguan Government its right of sovereignty. The United States, on their part, are to protect and guarantee the neutrality of these routes, and to induce their influence with other nations to come into the same agreement. Free ports are to be established at the extremities of these routes; one on the Atlantic, the other on the Pacific side, at which all goods destined for transit, and not for consumption in Nicaragua, are to be admitted without duty. The United States are also to have the privilege of conveying to or from these free ports troops and munitions of war, and shall be entitled to their conveyance across the Isthmus free of charge. No shall any discrimination be made in the rate of charges or tolls for the conveyance of persons or property in favor of the citizens of Nicaragua, but in persons alike, whether citizens or subjects of the United States, or of any other country, shall stand upon the same level. A right is also granted to the Postmaster-General of the United States to contract for the conveyance of the United States mail in sealed bags, by any route at his discretion, across the Isthmus, free from any tax or duty to be imposed by the Government of Nicaragua.

In case it becomes necessary to employ military force for the protection of the Transit, Nicaragua is to furnish it; but upon her omission to do so from any cause, the Government of the United States, after notice to the Nicaraguan Government, or to the Nicaraguan Minister in the United States, may step in and employ the force necessary for this purpose; but they are not to employ it for any other purpose, and are to withdraw it when this necessity ceases. The Government of the United States, however, is not to extend its military power or protection beyond the limits of the Transit, and the management of the persons or companies having control of the routes; and in case, contrary to the spirit of this treaty, they should undertake to make unfair discriminations in favor of this or that nation, or to impose oppressive or unreasonable tolls, then, upon six months' notice to the Nicaraguan Government, the United States have a right to withdraw their guaranty and protection. It is also agreed that in any future contracts made by the Nicaraguan Government in relation to the Isthmus Transit, the rights and privileges granted by this treaty to the citizens and Government of the United States shall be fully recognized; and that as to any contracts or grants now in existence, the guaranty of the United States Government shall not apply until the holders of these grants shall accept as a part of their contract the provisions of this treaty. It is also further provided that after the end of ten years the tolls to be imposed shall be so regulated as not to yield a greater profit than fifteen per cent to those who manage the transportation. So far as a stipulation can go, the treaty of which we have given above an outline, would seem to concede everything to us which we can reasonably ask. The only provision in it which appears to us decidedly open to objection is that which stipulates for the conveyance free of tolls of the troops and munitions of the United States. Surely the United States are able to pay a reasonable compensation for any service rendered to them; and we apprehend that what may seem to be saved by this hard bargain any company engaged in the Transit will find the means of making up for in some other way. There is no check, for instance, upon any demand for the conveyance of the mails, except the right of the Postmaster-General to resort to some other route—a right which, in so many other cases—might be of very little effect in practice. Would it not have been better to have agreed to pay the ordinary rate of tolls for the conveyance of troops and munitions, and at the same time to have provided that the United States mails should be conveyed at the prices paid for other freight?

Though somewhat obscure on that point, the treaty does not seem expressly to provide a right to hold real estate, but to leave that to the determination of the local law. Citizens of the United States residing in Nicaragua, are to be free from all exorbitant military levies by land or water, and from all military exactions and forced loans, nor shall their property of any kind be taken for the public service without full compensation to be paid in advance; but they shall pay the same taxes and ordinary contributions in time of peace with the natives. They are also to have an unlimited right to travel to any part of the country, and to enjoy wherever they go the protection of the laws, including impunity from any annoyance on account of their religious beliefs.

The Virginia Banks.

We understand that the Banks in this place have determined to receive in payment and on deposit, their own several issues, and those of the branches of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia payable elsewhere, and notes on the Exchange Bank and Branches.

Valley Bank paper and Independent Bank paper is discarded, so that the war is fully made up of the New York Old Banks, the former having the advantage of so firm, so true and so popular an institution as the Bank of the Valley, with which to head the column of defence or attack.

We observe that an arrangement has been made with Isaacs & Taylor of Richmond for the protection and redemption in Bankable funds, of the paper of the Bank of the Valley, which will have the effect of putting its paper at par in that city. A like arrangement has been made by the Bank of Howardsville, Monticello Bank, Central Bank, Merchants' Bank of Lynchburg, and Bank of the Valley at Staunton. C. W. Purcell & Co., and R. H. Maury & Co., have also advertised to redeem issues of the following Banks, in Bankable funds, at their Exchange and Banking Houses, in Richmond: Bank of the Valley, at Staunton. Central Bank, at Staunton. Merchants' Bank, at Charlottesville. Bank of Commerce, at Fredericksburg. Bank of Howardsville, at Howardsville. Bank of Scottsville, at Scottsville. Bank of Old Dominion, at Alexandria. Bank of Rockbridge, at Lexington. Bank of Rockingham, at Harrisonburg.

It is very apparent that the Old Banks must either retrace their steps, founded upon an unwise and illiberal policy, or lose, to a vast degree, the confidence and respectability of the community, and be considered with every one of them.—*Fred. Herald.*

American Medical Convention.

The eleventh annual meeting of the American Medical Convention took place on Tuesday, in the spacious hall of the "Smithsonian," in Washington. The assemblage of such a number of professional gentlemen, from almost every section of the land, occasions much interest. The President, Dr. Paul F. Eva, of Tennessee, took the chair. An appropriate prayer was then offered by the Rev. Dr. Sunderland, of the First Presbyterian Church.

The Vice-Presidents of the Convention are: R. J. Breckinridge, of Kentucky; David M. Rice, of New York; W. H. Byford, of Indiana, and Henry F. Campbell, of Georgia. Secretaries—R. H. C. Foster, of Tennessee, and A. J. Semmes, of Washington city.

Dr. Harvey Lindsley, chairman of the committee on arrangements, in a neat address, welcomed the members of the Convention to the national metropolis, and referred eloquently to its association with the name of the illustrious Washington, which was responded to with great applause. The Secretary then proceeded to call the roll, when there appeared delegates from twenty-six States, the District of Columbia, and one from Paris, France. When California and Paris were responded to, the delegates were welcomed by loud applause.

The delegates from Virginia were: T. C. Spencer, H. C. Leigh, Thomas P. Atkinson, J. N. Schofield, John Fauntleroy, Hugh H. McGuire, J. C. Brown, and M. M. Lewis. Dr. Gratton Tyler, of Georgetown, D. C., chairman of the committee on prize essays, reported that the essays received were three in number, each of which had been examined with great care; considering, first, their intrinsic merits of each essay, and then their merits in relation to each other. The first prize was awarded to "an essay on the clinical study of the heart sounds, in health and disease," bearing the motto: "*Chloria chloria*." The second prize was awarded to "an essay on the clinical study of the heart sounds, in health and disease," bearing the motto: "*Chloria chloria*."

Dr. Tyler then proceeded to open the sealed envelopes bearing the above-named mottoes, and containing the names of the writers of the essays. The first was written by Dr. Austin Flint, of Buffalo, New York; and the second by Dr. Montrose A. Pellan, of St. Louis, Missouri. This is the second time Dr. Flint has won this distinguished honor, and the third time that it has been awarded to Buffalo, since the association was organized, eleven years ago.

On motion, the report of the committee was accepted and adopted. Doctors Flint and Pellan were invited to give *resumes* of their essays, which they did.

The Association then elected the following officers: President—Dr. Harvey Lindsley, of Washington city. Vice-Presidents—Dr. W. L. Safford, of Kentucky; Thomas O. Edwards, of Iowa; Josiah Crosby, of New Hampshire, and W. C. Warren, of North Carolina.

Secretary—Dr. A. J. Semmes, of Washington city. [The other Secretary will be elected when the location of the next association is selected.]

Treasurer—Casper Wistar, of Philadelphia.

At the meeting of the Association, yesterday, Dr. Atkinson, of Va., moved that the Constitution of the Association be so amended as to prohibit the admission as a delegate or the recognition as a member, of any person who had been expelled from any local association, until relieved by such association, and that until the constitution be so amended this shall be the rule of action. [Applause.]

The resolution containing an amendment to the constitution was, after remarks by Drs. Band of M. and Watson of N. Y., laid over until the next year.

Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Mich., chairman of the committee on medical literature, after some remarks, read his report.

The report was a commendable one to the editor of the medical periodical literature for their single devotion to the cause of medicine, speaks of them as endeavoring to keep a union of hearts and a union of States.—[Applause.] American literature was reviewed—its excellence said to consist in its practical works. It then proceeds to notice several new American works on medicine.—The new American Pharmaceutical Association was noticed as having been organized, and the American Medical Association was noticed as having been organized, and the American Medical Association was noticed as having been organized.

During the reading of the report it was proposed by Dr. Atkinson, of Va., to suspend further reading; but, after some cursory discussion, he withdrew his motion, and the reading proceeded; and, at its conclusion, the report was referred to the committee on publication.

Dr. J. M. Wood, of the special committee on medical education, under a resolution of the Nashville meeting of the association, read his report. The report reviews the proceedings of the association in reference to medical education, shows how potential would be any action which the association may take in the matter. The primary medical schools were commended, and special attention to the daily examination of private pupils by their preceptors insisted upon. Medical education was named. Distinguished names of medical colleges were disapproved. The standard of graduation in the medical colleges was said to be too low, and the creation of a Board of Examiners independent of all schools, recommended. The absolute necessity of clinical instruction combined with hospital practice to the medical education, was enforced. A convention of delegates from the various schools for the purpose of adopting these reforms, was proposed, and the report concluded with a resolution inviting a convention of representatives of the schools to convene, and submit the result of their deliberations to this association at its next meeting.

The report was referred to the committee on publication.

The committee on nominations reported Louisville, Ky., as the place of meeting in 1859, and named Dr. S. S. Bemis, of Ky., as second secretary.

They also nominate the following standing committees:

Committee on Publication—Dr. Gratton Tyler, chairman; Drs. Caspar Wistar, P. A. J. Semmes, D. C.; S. M. Bemis, Ky.; S. L. Hollingsworth, Pa.; S. Lewis, Pa.; H. F. Ascher, Va.

Committee on Medical Literature—Dr. John Watson, N. Y.; chairman; Drs. L. A. Smith, N. C.; W. G. McGuffey, Ohio; R. W. Gibbs, S. C.; W. M. Pakenham, Mo.

Committee on Prize Essays—Dr. J. B. Flint, N. Y.; chairman; Dr. M. Goldsmith, N. J.; H. Miller, Ky.; Calvin West, Ind.

Committee on Medical Education—Dr. G. W. Norris, Pa.; chairman; Drs. A. H. Lucie, N. J.; E. R. Henderson, S. C.; G. R. Grant, Tenn.; T. S. Lusk, N. C.

Committee of Arrangements—R. J. Breckinridge, Ky., chairman; Drs. G. W. Ronald, Ky.; B. M. Wible, Ky.; D. W. Randall, D. Thompson, Ky.; N. B. Marshall, Ky.; G. W. Burgess, Ky.; R. C. Howell, Ky.; A. B. Cook, Ky.

The report was read and adopted, and the committee obtained leave to sit again.

The resolutions proposed by the special committee on medical education in regard to calling a convention of the various medical schools, was taken up, and after much debate and many amendments, it was referred under the previous question to a select committee composed of one delegate from each of the schools represented in the Association.

Dr. Hann moved to reconsider the vote by which the Association accepted the apology of Dr. Bryan. The vote upon suspending the rules stood—ayes 111, noes 82. The chair decided that a two-third vote was necessary to suspend the rules.

An appeal was taken from the decision, after debate, the Chair, on its motion, reversed its decision and decided that no suspension of the rules was necessary.

The vote then coming on the motion to reconsider, stood—ayes 142, noes 70. So the vote accepting the apology of Dr. Bryan was reconsidered, and laid on the table.—*Wash. Star.*

Decision with regard to Slaves.
The Virginia Law Journal, for April, contains the important case decided recently by the Court of Appeals of this State. It appears that John L. Poindester, dec'd, left a will providing that his slaves should be allowed to choose between being manumitted and remaining in slavery, and a suit was brought by Bailey et al., and *Howe et al.*, against the executors. The Court decided in favor of the appellants, Judge Daniel delivering the opinion, from which we extract the following:

"Under these circumstances I have conceived it to be my duty to regard the question as one to be tested by the general and acknowledged principles pertaining to the subject, and not as one controlled by the influence of a special act of the Legislature. And when we so treat the question, it seems to me there can be no longer any serious difficulty as to the proper solution. When we assent to the general proposition, as I think we must do, that our slaves have no civil or social right, that they have no legal capacity to make, discharge, or assent to a contract; that though a master enter into the forms of an agreement with his slave to manumit him, and the slave proceed fully to perform all required of him in the agreement, he is without remedy in case the master refuse to comply with his part of the agreement, and that a slave cannot take anything under a devise or will except his freedom; we are led necessarily to the conclusion that nothing short of a positive enactment, or of legal decisions having equal force, can demonstrate the capacity of a slave to exercise an election, in respect to his manumission.

It is decided by the highest legal tribunal of this Commonwealth that a slave cannot elect to be free."

Atlatro Ship Canal Project.

The survey of the route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, by the river Atlatro, in the attempted reconnaissance of which Lieut. Straun suffered so much, has just been completed, and the data obtained for determining with precision the practicability of an inter-oceanic ship canal by that line.

"The distance by land surveyed by this party from the point on Trinidad where they established their first camp, to the Pacific, was fifty-six or fifty-seven miles, or, if we consider the land route as beginning at the falls of the Trinidad, only twenty-four or twenty-five miles. Considering the account given of the general character of the country and the reserve in the expression of an opinion as to the practicability of the route, it seems most likely that the detailed report will go to establish the unfavorable opinion pronounced as long ago as 1852 by Mr. John C. Trautwine, of Philadelphia, who made an examination at that time with a view to this question. Although the survey by Lieut. Straun included the river Atlatro, the report from which we quote furnishes no details on that subject. The article Atlatro, in the New American Encyclopedia, states, that within the bar, that river has a wide channel not less than thirty-five feet deep for the first ninety-five miles above its mouth, with a fall not exceeding two and a half inches to the mile, and that for forty-two miles further, a channel exceeding eighteen feet can be obtained at little expense. The total distance from sea to sea by this route is understood to be about two hundred and fifty miles."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

New Police Bill.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Brown introduced a bill for the preservation of order and the protection of property in the District of Columbia.

On introducing the bill, Mr. Brown alluded to the fact of a bill of a kindred nature having passed the Senate before, which had been lost in the other branch. It seemed to be admitted on all sides that some bill was necessary, and while he did not mean to commit himself in favor of all the provisions of the bill, he justly intimated that he would refer to the Committee on the District of Columbia, and perhaps something valuable might be grafted on the parent stock.

[This bill provides that where assemblages of the people take place, or where breaches of the peace may occur, or there is reason to believe they are apprehended, the District Marshal, upon the approbation of the President, may appoint such number of marshals as the occasion may require, to prevent, by force of arms, any such evils, and may summon such number of citizens as may be required as a posse comitatus, and in the duty, and in judging of said elections, proceed upon the merits thereof, and shall determine the validity of the same, according to the constitution and laws of the United States, and such complaint shall not be valid, or adjudged by the court, unless the same shall have been filed, within ten days after the election, in the clerk's office of the proper court, and when the complaint is of undue election or false return of the justice of the peace, the clerk of the said court shall immediately certify to the governor the decree of said court, when made, and in whose favor such election shall have terminated, and the governor shall thereupon cause the same to be entered on the records of the court, and in said case the election shall be void, and in said case the election shall be void, and in said case the election shall be void.]

Rappahannock Agricultural Society.
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